

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

MININGENUITY™

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MEDIA RELEASE**

COAST PLAYS HOST TO MINING INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

More than 250 mining industry representatives will visit the Central Coast this week for the NSW Minerals Council Environment and Community Conference.

The annual event has attracted some of Australia's leading industry, environment, community and natural resources professionals to discuss water management, climate change, mine site rehabilitation and local impacts associated with the mining industry.

The conference also examines how the industry engages with the local communities in which it operates, providing significant social and economic benefits while at the same time working to minimise environmental impacts.

NSW Minerals Council Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the purpose of the event was to provide a forum for frank discussion on the challenges facing the industry and to identify best practice initiatives which could be promoted as benchmarks across the industry.

"The mining industry has a lot to be proud of and there are also areas where we can improve. The reality is that our industry will always be judged by its worst performer. This conference is about sharing experiences across regions and mining sectors to keep raising our game and to continue reducing our environmental impacts."

Whilst the conference will focus on the important challenges facing the industry, it will also take time to recognise its best performers over the last 12 months.

"The NSW Minerals Council Environment and Community Excellence Awards will celebrate those from within the industry who have led the way through innovation in environmental management or through their programs and initiatives within the local communities in which they operate," said Dr Williams.

The conference will feature a wide variety of speakers, with NSW Minister for Minerals Resources Ian Macdonald MLC, renowned journalist George Negus and Chairman and Chief Executive of the National Water Commission, Ken Matthews to address the delegates during the opening morning.

In addition, the NSW Minerals Council is delighted to feature Greening Australia (NSW) Chief Executive, David Butcher and former Senior Adviser to the recently retired British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Nick Rowley, as part of a session titled "Views From Outside the Industry", which explores the perceptions of NGOs, academia and the research community.

The three-day conference concludes on Friday.

Conference program: http://www.nswmin.com.au/about_nswmc/conferences_and_events

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